
Minutes of the 169th Session

OF

ORANGE PRESBYTERY,

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169th Session

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Minutes of the 169th Session OF ORANGE PRESBYTERY.

Newberne, N. C., December 6th, 1854.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with a Sermon by Rev. S. A. Stanfield, the last Moderator present, from Rom. 8th chapter, 33rd verse. Constituted with prayer.

Present, Rev. Thomas Lynch, A. Wilson, D.D., Robert Burwell, D. Lacy, D.D., James Phillips, D.D., E. Hines, A. Currie, S. A. Stanfield, F. N. Whaley, T. G. Wall and W. P. Wharton, Ministers.

With Messrs. John Bullock, R. N. Taylor, Joseph Potts and C. Phillips, Ruling Elders.

Absent, Rev. Wm. D. Paisley, J. H. Pickard, E. Mitchell, D.D., E. W. Caruthers, D.D., J. Rankin, G. W. Ferrill, T. R. Owen, W. N. Mebane, J. Doll, E. C. Bittinger, A. G. Hughes, C. K. Caldwell, N. Z. Graves, J. S. Grasty, J. H. McNeill and Thomas U. Faucette.

Rev. Robert Burwell was chosen Moderator and Rev. William P. Wharton and Mr. Charles Phillips, temporary Clerks.

Rev. D. Lacy, D.D., was chosen Stated Clerk, pro. tem.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet on Thursday at 10 o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

DECEMBER 7th, 1854.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of the Session on Wednesday were read.

The printed minutes of the regular Session of Presbytery at Spring Hill, were also read.

Letters from sundry absentees at the last and at the present Session were read and sustained. Other absentees gave their excuses in person, which excuses were deemed satisfactory.

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Rev. Messrs. Phillips and Whaley with Mr. John Bullock were appointed a committee to confer with such of our candidates for the Ministry as may be present.

Rev. T. G. Wall reported that he had obeyed the order of Presbytery to declare the Presbyterian Church in Washington vacant.

A call from the Presbyterian Church in Washington for the Pastoral services of Mr. John M. Sherwood, was presented to Presbytery, and on being found in order was put into Mr. Sherwood's hands.

Rev. Messrs. Wilson and Hines with Mr. Potts were appointed a Committee to examine the Minutes of the last General Assembly, and to report such subjects as demand the attention of Presbytery.

It was ordered that the services connected with the installation of the Rev. T. G. Wall be attended to on Friday at 6½ o'clock, P. M.

Messrs. Lynch, Lacy, Whaley and Currie, Ministers, and Messrs. R. I. Smith, R. N. Taylor, J. Potts and C. Phillips, Ruling Elders, were nominated as Commissioners to the next General Assembly.

Rev. Mr. Chaffin of the Methodist Episcopal Church being present, was invited to sit with the Presbytery as a corresponding member.

The members of Presbytery present, made reports as to the care that was taken by their different churches, of the poor within their bounds.

It was ordered that the free conversation on the state of religion within the bounds of this Presbytery, be held on Friday at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Rev. Messrs. Stanfield and Wharton with Mr. Taylor, were appointed a Committee to take notes and prepare a narrative for the next General Assembly.

The members of Presbytery appointed to supply destitutions within its bounds, made reports as to the attention paid to the commands of Presbytery.

The suggestions made by the Committee on Domestic Missions as to supplies until the next regular meeting of Presbytery, were referred to Rev. Mr. Lynch and Messrs. C. Phillips and J. Potts, to revise and amend.

Raleigh, Clarksville, Shiloh and Madison were nominated as places suitable for the next regular Session of Presbytery.

Commissioners to the last General Assembly, made a report as to their attendance on the sessions of that body.

Mr. John M. Sherwood announced to Presbytery that he accepted the call from the Church in Washington ; whereupon it was resolved

that Presbytery will proceed to the examination of Mr. Sherwood, with a view to his ordination and that Ephesians 2nd chapter, 10th verse, be assigned to him as a subject for a sermon to be preached on Saturday at 11 o'clock, A. M.

Resolved, That the 5th item in the distribution of the Presbyterial fund be altered so as to read as follows : " 5—To those Directors of Union Theological Seminary who are appointed by this Presbytery, their traveling expenses to and from the Seminary."

The following subjects were assigned to Mr. Willis Miller as parts of his exercises in trial for licensure, viz : For a Latin Exegesis "The Word," for a critical exercise, Psalm 32nd. For a lecture, Psalm 23rd ; and for a popular sermon, Isaiah 55th chapter, 1st verse.

The Rev. Messrs. Wall and Currie with Mr. Bullock, were appointed a Committee to arrange a meeting to receive and consider the report from the Committee on Domestic Missions, on Saturday at 3 o'clock, P. M.

Resolved, That on Wednesday before the 2nd Sabbath in April, 1855, at 7 o'clock, P. M., an adjourned meeting of Orange Presbytery be held in the town of Danville, to receive the Rev. John M. Kirkpatrick, and if the way be open, instal him as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of that place. Also, that the Rev. W. N. Mebane be appointed to preach the Sermon, and that the Rev. S. A. Stanfield be his alternate ; that the Rev. Wm. P. Wharton deliver the charge to the Pastor, the Rev. A. G. Hughes being his alternate ; and that the Rev. C. K. Caldwell give the charge to the people, the Rev. J. S. Grasty being his alternate.

Resolved, That this Presbytery recommends to each Pastor and Stated Supply within its bounds to take up if he think proper during the month of April, 1855, a collection for the benefit of the Metropolitan Church, and to send the funds thus collected to Charles Stoll, Esq., in Washington City, or to Samuel D. Powell in Philadelphia.

Presbytery then adjourned to meet on Friday at 9½ o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY, December 8th, 1854.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer.

The minutes of Thursday were read and corrected.

Rev. F. N. Whaley was appointed Treasurer pro. tempore.

The Chairman of the Committee on Education made a report which was accepted and laid on the table.

The Stated Clerk of Presbytery was directed to write to the licentiates under the care of Presbytery, and remind them of their duty

either to attend the meetings of Presbytery or to make proper reports of themselves.

The suggestions for supplies from the Committee on Domestic Missions after sundry amendments were adopted, and are as follows :

“ The Committee on Domestic Missions nominate the following list of supplies with the recommendation that they labor two or three days at each of these places respectively, including a Sabbath, and administer the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper if convenient, viz :

Pittsboro’,	Rev. A. G. Hughes, Dr. Phillips & Dr. Mitchell.
Lexington,	“ C. K. Caldwell and Jesse Rankin.
Gilead,	“ William P. Wharton.
Graham,	“ A. Currie and Dr. Wilson.
Bethany,	“ T. U. Faucette and R. Burwell.
Speedwell,	“ J. Doll.
Gum Grove,	“ J. W. Montgomery.
Smithfield & vicinity,	“ Drury Lacy, D.D.
Union,	“ William N. Mebane.
Asheborough,	“ E. W. Caruthers, D.D.
Beaufort,	“ T. G. Wall.
Murfreesborough,	“ Thomas R. Owen.
Kinston,	“ T. G. Wall.
W’mston & Plymo’th,	“ N. Z. Graves, J. M. Sherwood, T. R. Owen.
Bethesda,	“ John S. Grasty.
Hyde County,	“ John M. Sherwood.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. DOLL, Chairman.

Madison, N. C., Nov. 21st 1854.

At 3 o’clock, P. M., the Presbytery attended to the order of the day, viz : a free conversation on the state of religion.

At 6½ o’clock, P. M., the Rev. T. G. Wall was installed Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Newbern according to the order made during the Session at Spring Hill.

Rev. Drury Lacy, D.D., with F. N. Whaley as his alternate and Rev. Thomas Lynch with A. Currie as his alternate, Ministers ; also, R. N. Taylor and Charles Phillips, Ruling Elders, with R. I. Smith and Joseph Potts alternates, to either as necessity may arise, were elected Commissioners to the next General Assembly.

It was ordered that if the way be open, the Rev. James Phillips, D.D., preach the sermon at the installation of Mr. Sherwood as Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Washington, that the Rev. A.

Wilson, D.D., deliver the charge to the Pastor and the Rev. D. Lacy, D.D., deliver the charge to the people.

The Presbytery then adjourned to meet on Saturday at 9½ o'clock, A. M. Closed with prayer.

SATURDAY, Dec. 9th, 1854.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer. The minutes of Friday were read and corrected.

The Committee for examining and conferring with candidates for the Ministry made a report which was accepted and the Committee discharged.

The Committee on the Minutes of the General Assembly reported the following resolutions, viz :

Resolved, That the Pastors and Stated Supplies of this Presbytery be recommended to attend strictly to the action of our General Assembly.

1. With regard to the observance of the last Thursday of February, 1855, as a day of special prayer for the outpouring of God's spirit on the Churches, &c.

2. With regard to Systematic Benevolence.

3. With regard to preaching on Ministerial Support.

The Committee appointed to prepare a narrative of the state of religion within the bounds of this Presbytery, made the following report, which the Stated Clerk was directed to forward to the General Assembly, viz :

“The Presbytery of Orange, in presenting to the General Assembly a narrative of the state of religion within their bounds, regret to say that they have nothing of a very encouraging nature to offer. The most favorable items are,—

1. A revival of religion of very considerable extent in one of our Churches; while in several others there have been a few additions to the communion.

2. An important improvement in Christian liberality as shown by increasing Pastor's salaries, improving Church edifices, buying and building parsonages, and contributions to various benevolent purposes.

3. A general attendance on the means of grace—Preaching—Sabbath Schools, &c.

The grounds of humiliation are,—

1. The number of vacant Churches and unsupplied Missionary fields within our bounds.

2. The extreme paucity of candidates for the Ministry.

3. The small number of conversions during the year within our field as a whole.

4. The want of a manifest growth among our people in all the graces of the Spirit.”

It was ordered that the next regular Session of this Presbytery be held in the Church at Raleigh, on the second Wednesday (13th day) of June, 1855, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

The Rev. Mr. Tucker of the Methodist Episcopal Church being present, was invited to sit with the Presbytery as a corresponding member.

At 11 o'clock, A. M., the Presbytery heard Mr. Sherwood's sermon and afterwards sustained it as a part of his trial for ordination.

At 3 o'clock, P. M., the Presbytery considered the report of the Committee on Domestic Missions. After several addresses in connection with the subjects it presented, the report was adopted and ordered to be filed among the papers of Presbytery.

Mr. Sherwood having stood a satisfactory examination on all the subjects prescribed by our Book of Discipline, it was ordered that an adjourned meeting of Presbytery be held in the Church at Washington, on Monday the 11th December, 1854, at 7 o'clock, P. M., to ordain Mr. Sherwood to the full work of the Gospel Ministry, and to install him according to the programme selected during the Session of Friday.

It was ordered that the Stated Clerk have three hundred copies of the Minutes of this Session of Presbytery printed and distributed among the Churches.

Resolved, That the Presbytery return its thanks to the citizens of Newberne for their hospitality and christian courtesy, and also to the members of the Methodist and Baptist Churches for the use of their houses of worship.

After singing a hymn and prayer the Presbytery adjourned to meet in Washington, N. C., on Monday the 11th of December, 1854, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

J. DOLL, Stated Clerk.

Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting.

WASHINGTON, N. C., Dec. 11th, 1854.

Orange Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Robert Burwell.

Present, Rev. D. Lacy, D.D., R. Burwell, Alex. Wilson, D.D., and James Phillips, D.D., Ministers. With Messrs. Joseph Potts and Charles Phillips, Ruling Elders.

After a recess to hear a Sermon, Presbytery adjourned to meet on Tuesday December 12th, 1854, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Closed with prayer.

TUESDAY, Dec. 12th, 1854.

Presbytery met according to adjournment and was opened with prayer. After a Sermon by the Rev. James Phillips, D.D., the presiding Minister by prayer and with the laying on of the hands of the Presbytery, according to the apostolic example, solemnly ordained J. M. Sherwood, to the holy office of the Gospel Ministry; and installed him Pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Washington.

After giving the new Minister the right hand of fellowship, a charge was delivered to him by the Rev. A. Wilson, D.D. A charge was delivered to the congregation present by the Rev. D. Lacy, D.D., according to the order of the Presbytery at Newberne.

The Rev. John M. Sherwood was then invited to take a seat as a regular member of Orange Presbytery.

The Presbytery then adjourned with singing and prayer, to meet in Danville, Va., on the Wednesday before the second Sabbath in April, 1855, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

J. DOLL, Stated Clerk.

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